

# Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare update

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## Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Information for Providers

To:

Master's Level  
Psychiatric  
Nurses

Mental Health/  
Substance  
Abuse Clinics

Physician  
Assistants

Physician Clinics  
Physicians

HMOs and Other  
Managed Care  
Programs

## Policy clarification for pharmacologic management

This *Update* clarifies policy for when Wisconsin Medicaid will reimburse for pharmacologic management care under procedure code 90862.

### Pharmacologic management is a direct care service

Wisconsin Medicaid reimburses for pharmacologic management (procedure code 90862) as described in the American Medical Association *Current Procedural Terminology* (CPT) manual as "Pharmacologic management, including prescription, use, and review of medication with no more than minimal medical psychotherapy."

For Wisconsin Medicaid purposes, this direct care service includes medication prescription and administration by qualified persons, evaluation of the medication effects on target symptoms, and assessment of side effects, with no more than minimal psychotherapy.

*Wisconsin Medicaid reimburses only for direct care services. Wisconsin Medicaid does not reimburse for administrative costs, such as medication counts, including a count of the methadone supply.*

### Pharmacologic management guidelines

The focus of a pharmacologic management visit is the use of medication for relief of the recipient's signs and symptoms of mental illness. When the recipient continues to experience signs and symptoms of mental illness necessitating discussion beyond 30 minutes in a given day or one hour in a calendar month, the focus of the service is broader and is considered psychotherapy rather than pharmacologic management. Wisconsin Medicaid policies governing psychotherapy would then need to be followed.

### Reimbursement for pharmacologic management

Wisconsin Medicaid will cover pharmacologic management only when provided by one of the following:

- Physicians.
- Physician assistants.
- Master's-level psychiatric nurses.

To avoid duplication of services, Wisconsin Medicaid will not reimburse a provider for a pharmacologic management service (procedure code 90862) on the same date of service that the same provider performs a psychotherapy or evaluation and management service.

As it is listed in the CPT manual as a psychiatric code, pharmacologic management should not be confused with pharmaceutical care services that are reimbursable when performed by pharmacists.

Pharmacologic management is considered a hospital service when provided to hospital inpatients and will not be separately reimbursed as a professional service.

### **Pharmacologic management reimbursement**

One unit of procedure code 90862 is equal to 15 minutes. Wisconsin Medicaid may reimburse up to two units per day and up to four units per calendar month. Wisconsin Medicaid does not reimburse for pharmacologic management in excess of these limits.

This *Update* applies to fee-for-service Medicaid providers only. If you are a Medicaid HMO network provider, contact your managed care organization for more information about its billing procedures. Wisconsin Medicaid HMOs are required to provide at least the same benefits for enrollees as those provided under fee-for-service arrangements.

The *Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Update* is the first source of program policy and billing information for providers.

Although the *Update* refers to Medicaid recipients, all information applies to BadgerCare recipients also.

Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare are administered by the Division of Health Care Financing, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, P.O. Box 309, Madison, WI 53701-0309.

For questions, call Provider Services at (800) 947-9627 or (608) 221-9883 or visit our Web site at [www.dhfs.state.wi.us/medicaid/](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/medicaid/).